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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/973,058  | 10/10/2001    | Toshio Sakurai       | 35.C15866           | 5036             |
| 5514  | 7590          | 04/09/2008           |                     |                  |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO<br>30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA<br>NEW YORK, NY 10112 |               |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
|   |               |                      | MILIA, MARK R       |                  |
|   |               |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |               |                      | 2625                |                  |
|   |               |                      |                     |                  |
| MAIL DATE   | DELIVERY MODE |                      |                     |                  |
| 04/09/2008  | PAPER         |                      |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/973,058 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SAKURAI, TOSHIO |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Mark R. Milia     | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2625                |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 1/4/08 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 1-12 are pending.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/4/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Wakasugi (US 5,961,616) fails to disclose waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from an external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus, and determining whether the fetched information is the same as information fetched a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is not the same as the information fetched the previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is the same as the information fetched the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information. The examiner respectfully disagrees as Wakasugi does disclose such features. Particularly,

Wakasugi states that previous transferred data **D0** to **D7** is stored in a buffer and compared to current transferred data **D0** to **D7** to determine coincidence after a given time interval has elapsed, the time interval being controlled by counter **26** (see column 10 lines 42-46, column 11 lines 32-40, and column 12 lines 60-63). Further, Wakasugi states that spike noises cause the contents of the transferred data to change for a brief interval (see column 11 lines 18-27) and the contents of the transferred data is updated in synchronism with the rising edge of the internal strobe signal, which is indicative of spike noise (see column 11 lines 48-56). Therefore, currently transferred data **D0** to **D7** is compared to previous transferred data **D0** to **D7** to detect a change in the transferred data and ultimately eliminate noise or otherwise erroneous data, which is the invention set forth by the applicant.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-12, as set forth in the previous Office Action, is maintained.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakasugi (US 5,961,616).

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Wakasugi discloses an interface apparatus and information processing method for inputting information from an external apparatus,

comprising: a first circuit for waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from the external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus (see Figs. 10-12 and column 10 lines 42-46, column 11 lines 17-47, and column 12 lines 60-63) and a second circuit for determining whether the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as information fetched by the first circuit a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by the first circuit is not the same as the information fetched by the first circuit the previous time, outputting the fetched information, wherein in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as the information fetched by the first circuit the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information (see Figs. 7-12 and column 9 line 40-column 13 line 4).

Regarding claims 2 and 7, Wakasugi further discloses a data change detector for outputting a reset in the case where there is a change in the information input from the external apparatus (see Fig. 10 (10) and column 3 line 65-column 4 line 10), a timer for inputting the reset output by the change detector and outputting a trigger after the elapse of a predetermined time from the input of the reset (see Fig. 12 and column 12 lines 14-65), a data latch for inputting the trigger output by said timer and fetching the information input from the external apparatus in accordance with the input of the trigger (see Fig. 10, column 9 lines 40-63, and column 10 line 61-column 11 line 16).

Regarding claim 4, Wakasugi further discloses wherein the information which is inputted from the external apparatus is inputted to the first circuit and the information fetched by said first circuit is input to the second circuit (see Fig. 10 and column 11 line 17-column 12 line 65).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakasugi in view of Motoyama (US 5,818,603).

Wakasugi discloses a first circuit for waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from the external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus (see Figs. 10-12 and column 10 lines 42-46, column 11 lines 17-47, and column 12 lines 60-63) and a second circuit for determining whether the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as information fetched by the first circuit a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by said first circuit is not the same as information fetched by the first circuit a previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as information fetched by the first

circuit a previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information (see Figs. 7-12 and column 9 line 40-column 13 line 4).

Wakasugi does not disclose expressly a printer engine for printing the information output by the second circuit.

Motoyama discloses a printer engine for printing the information output by the second circuit (see Fig. 1, column 3 lines 56-57, column 7 lines 33-49, and column 8 lines 36-44).

Wakasugi & Motoyama are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, data monitoring and transmission.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine a printer engine for printing, as described by Motoyama, with the system of Wakasugi.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the ability to properly communicate data between a host apparatus and an output device (i.e. printer) by eliminating noise from the transferred data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama with Wakasugi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 5 and 10.

7. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakasugi as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Motoyama.

Wakasugi does not disclose expressly wherein the external apparatus forms information such that information is non-continuous information.

Motoyama discloses wherein the external apparatus forms information such that information is non-continuous information (see column 4 lines 15-19, column 6 line 63-column 7 line 3, column 7 line 24-column 8 line 44, and column 11 lines 6-49).

Wakasugi & Motoyama are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, data monitoring and transmission.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine non-continuous transfer of information, as described by Motoyama, and which is well known in the art of printing, with the system of Wakasugi.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the ability to properly communicate data between a host apparatus and an output device (i.e. printer) by eliminating noise from the transferred data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama with Wakasugi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 3 and 8.

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakasugi as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Chapman (US 6,175,603).

Wakasugi discloses the use of logic and logic filters in the execution of the invention (see column 11 line 17-column 12 line 65).

Wakasugi does not disclose expressly wherein the first step is executed by a glitch noise filter.

Chapman discloses the use of glitch noise filters to filter data information (see column 1 lines 36-59 and column 7 lines 44-53).

Wakasugi & Chapman are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, detection and processing of changes in transmitted information.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of a glitch noise filter as described by Chapman with the system of Wakasugi.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to accurately filter noise signals from incoming information.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Chapman with Wakasugi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

9. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakasugi as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Slechta (US 6,453,272).

Wakasugi does not disclose expressly wherein, if the fetched information continuously repeats a same value, said second circuit skips the fetched information.

Slechta discloses wherein, if the fetched information continuously repeats a same value, said second circuit skips the fetched information (see Fig. 3, column 1 lines 50-52, and column 5 line 62-column 6 line 16, reference shows that when a signal exceeds a predetermined noise threshold a noise filtering process is performed, otherwise the signal is passed unchanged, analogous to the skipping of information that is being repeated).

Wakasugi & Slechta are combinable because they are from detection and processing of changes in transmitted information.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the skipping of continuous information repeating a same value, as described by Slechta, with the system of Wakasugi.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to accurately suppress spurious noise, such as input glitches, without introducing artifacts of conventional low-pass filters (see column 1 lines 42-44 of Slechta), while allowing continuous data to flow quickly and accurately when no noise is present.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Slechta with Wakasugi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 11 and 12.

### ***Conclusion***

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571)272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached at (571) 272-7437. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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